

THE FIFTH DAY.

22nd February 1918.

The Assembly met at 11-50 A. M. on Friday, the 22nd February 1918.

Before the commencement of business, the Dewan announced that, from the 1st of March 1918, there would be two trains running from Quilon to Trivandrum and two trains from Trivandrum to Quilon.

IV. PRODUCTION.

(2) OTHER INDUSTRIES (*Concluded.*)

62. Suggestions for the industrial development of the Karunagapalli taluk.

Mr. N. Raman Pillai (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) said that industries such as coir mat-making, grass mat-making, sugar manufacture, &c., could be established in the taluk as ample facilities existed for the promotion of such industries. No doubt, the Vernacular schools in which industrial classes had been opened were doing much good. It would be better to increase the number of such schools and also the industries, so that the young men coming out of the Vernacular schools might have a distinct profession for themselves.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

V.—PUBLIC WORKS.

63. A more equitable distribution of the P. W. D. budget allotment

Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai (Member, Kottarakara Taluk) represented that a close study of the budgets would reveal that, in their preparation, no attempt was made to meet the requirements of the people in the various taluks. Reference had already been made to the high proportion of expenditure under "Establishment." Over and above that long-standing complaint, there were a few points to which he would invite the attention of Government.

(1) A considerable amount of money was being spent in Trivandrum on such buildings as the Higher Grade English School, Laboratories and similar structures in a manner out of all proportion to the actual requirements.

(2) Large sums were being spent on Travellers' Bungalows, Camp Sheds and for the purchase of crockery, vessels, etc.

(3) Enormous sums were also being expended annually on improvements and special repairs to such existing buildings as Officers' quarters, &c. The country stood in need of more roads. The grant under "Communications" was not sufficient. A large amount had been spent for the use of the European planters alone. The member requested that the figures under "Original Works and Repairs" might be separately shown in the Administration Reports and Budget Estimates. A large sum of money was being spent on rent for the use of Government Offices both in the mofussil and in the capital. It was desirable that the Rented buildings should be replaced by Government buildings at least by slow stages. The allotment of the P. W. D. budget should be so made that at least one important work should be in course of construction in each taluk every year. At the tenth session of the Assembly a Conference of the Assembly Members of North Travancore with the Chief Engineer as

President was held and a list of works to be carried out according to a particular order of urgency was prepared; and Government held out hopes that the works would be taken up every year in the order of urgency given. But he regretted to have to say that it was not done.

The Member then presented a memorial, signed by the Members of the Assembly, praying for the extension of the Railway from Kottarakara to Alwaye.

Dewan's reply.—The proposal for the extension of the Railway line from Kottarakara to Alwaye is premature. The other suggestions of the Member are noted.

64. Grievances of the ryots of Nanjanad in the matter of irrigation.

Mr. K. Chidambaran Pillai (Member, Tovala Taluk) requested—

(1) the removal from the Pazhayar of the accumulation of silt caused by the overflow of water from the Alathurayar, Puthenar, Anandanar, &c.;

(2) attention being paid by Government to the present condition of the N. Puthenar which was causing loss both to the ryots and the Government;

(3) the sluices in the N. Puthenar being increased to their former number;

(4) the sluices being kept open longer than for $2\frac{1}{2}$ days as at present for the reason that the Revenue Department acted under the impression that the sluices were open for a longer period than $2\frac{1}{2}$ days and that sufficient water was not available under the present arrangement;

(5) the opening of more roads for the area commanded by the Tovala Channel;

(6) the widening of the *kal* known as *Thazhathunathi* north of Vellamadam, as, during the freshes, the water overflowed the banks and caused damage; and

(7) the opening of Panchayat Courts in each taluk and particularly one such Court in Tovala and in Agastiswaram.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

65. Need for removing the grievances of the ryots of Nanjanad, with special reference to the formation of an Irrigation Board.

Mr. M. Sivatham Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram Taluk) thanked the Government for ordering the opening of the Kodayar dam a week earlier than usual during the current year and requested that orders be issued for opening the dam on the 1st Vycausy and closing it on the 30th Thye every year. He suggested the appointment of a Committee for the proper supervision of the maintenance of the Kodayar works. He then advocated the creation, on a statutory basis, of an Irrigation Board consisting of the Director of Agriculture, the Irrigation Officer, the Land Revenue Officer and a few of the leading ryots. He urged the need for more roads for carrying on their agricultural operations. For instance, the road from Thamarakulam to Parakkai—about a mile and a half—was highly useful for the transport of manure to the paddy fields and should be improved. The necessity for the road had been admitted by the Dewan Peishkar and the Chief Engineer. The Member also pressed, for the consideration of Government, the following:—

(1) a standing order should be issued allowing remission of revenue in cases of *karivu*, *tharisu* and *azhukichetham*;

(2) a Committee should be appointed to select grazing grounds;